

Appln No. 10/552,174
Amdt date December 5, 2007
Reply to Office action of September 5, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 were pending in the application. Applicants have presented new claim 27, therefore, claims 1-27 are now pending in the application.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for being non-enabling and under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 11 to recite that each guiding pin is supported in an associated guiding slide along the horizontal axis perpendicular to the seat longitudinal direction, rather than along a vertical axis perpendicular to the seat longitudinal direction. Applicants believe that the amendment to claim 11 overcomes the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs.

Claims 1-16, 18-21 and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over United States Publication Patent No. 2003/0218369 to Akaike, et al. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to recite that the distance between the two guiding pins changes when the two-guide elements are displaced relative to each other. In contrast, Akaike, et al. does not teach or suggest the noted limitation of claims 1 and 23.

Referring to FIG. 3 of Akaike, et al., the linking rod 68 has a first or front bracket 72 and a second or rear bracket 73 that are fixedly attached thereto. The first bracket 72 is connected to the slide pin 34 of the front linking mechanism 20. On the other hand, the second bracket 73 is connected to the slide pin 54 of the rear linking mechanism 40. In other words, the slide pins 34 and 54 are interconnected by means of the linking rod 68. Therefore, the slide pins 34 and 54 can synchronously move back and forth and respectively simultaneously slide along the slots 26 and 46 when the threaded shaft 66 moves back and forth. Therefore, as specified in Akaike, et al., the slide pins 34 and 54 move back and forth together simultaneously with the distance therebetween remaining unchanged so that the height of the seat can be uniformly adjusted.

In contrast to Akaiki, et al., claims 1 and 23 of the present application recite that the distance between the two guiding pins changes when the two guide elements are displaced relative to each other. Therefore, because Akaike, et al., does not teach or suggest that the distance between the two guiding pins changes when the two guide elements are displaced

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relative to each other, claims 1 and 23 and dependent claims 15, 16, 18-21, and 24-25 are patentable over Akaike, et al.

Claims 17 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Akaike, et al., as applied to claims 1 and 14-16 above, and in view of US Patent No. 6,557,809 to Downey. Because claim 1 is patentable over Akaike, et al. as described above, claims 17 and 22 are patentable over Akaike, et al. in view of Downey.

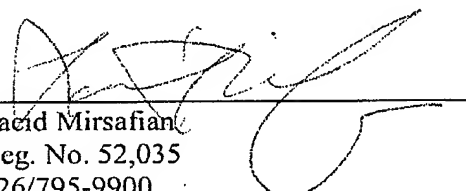
The office action indicates that claim 26 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 26 to place it in independent form so as to include the limitations of claim 23 and claim 24. Applicants have also added new claim 27, which is similar to claim 25 and depends on claim 26. Applicants believe that claim 26 and new claim 27 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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